

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Proposals to revise the *National Electrical Code (NEC)*.

DATE: January 17-20, 2000

PLACE: Crowne Plaza Hotel
Hilton Head, SC

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: January 31, 2000

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: William H. King, Jr., ES *WHL*

CPSC PARTICIPANT: William H. King, Jr., ES

NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

Robert Milatovich, Int'l. Assoc. of Elec. Inspectors (IAEI)
Walter Koessel, Intertek Testing Services
James Pearse, Leviton Mfrg Co. [rep. National Electrical Manufacturers Assoc. (NEMA)]
Robert Egan, Int'l. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Neil LaBrake, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. [rep. Edison Elec. Institute (EEI)]
Marcos Ramirez, Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
Lee West, National Spa & Pool Institute
George Anchales, IAEI
Jack Wiezeorick, Assoc. of Home Appliance Mfrs.
Robert Yurkanin, Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)
Dennis Baker, IEC
Scott Cline, National Electrical Contractors Assoc.
Mark Leimbeck, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)
Tom McDonald, NEMA
Anthony Sardina, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute
Rick Gilmour, CSA International
Bruce Hirsch, EEI
James Carpenter, IAEI
Richard Becker, IEEE
Thomas Harman, University of Houston
Donald Nissen, UL
John Kovacik, UL
James Pauley, Square D Company (rep. NEMA)
Dave Dini, UL
And other members of *NEC* Committee Code Panels 2 and 20.

SUMMARY:

Members of the *NEC* Code-Making Panels 2 and 20 met to discuss and act on many proposals to revise the *NEC*, which will eventually become the 2002 edition. Of particular interest to the CPSC staff were the proposals related to ground-fault circuit

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interrupters (GFCIs), arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), and appliance loads on branch circuits. The CPSC staff had submitted proposals in these three areas.

Code Panel 2 members sought additional data related to electric shock incidents before considering favorable action on a CPSC staff proposal related to GFCIs. CPSC staff had sought to require GFCIs at outdoor locations of dwellings incorporate a feature that will not permit the device to be reset if the electronic test circuit within the GFCI indicates a malfunction. CPSC staff will attempt to provide the data, and submit it with a CPSC staff comment during the upcoming comment period. The deadline for submitting comments is October 27, 2000.

Code Panel 2 acted on over a dozen proposals related to the application of arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection (Section 210-12 in the 1999 *NEC*). In the end, the panel action considered favorably a modest expansion of the current requirement to include all bedroom outlets (including lighting fixtures, ceiling fans, and switch outlets) for AFCI protection beginning in 2002, instead of only receptacle outlets as covered in the 1999 edition.

Code Panel 2 acted favorably on a proposal submitted by a task group organized to resolve the issues raised by the CPSC staff proposal submitted during the previous *NEC* revision cycle related to the rating of cord- and plug-connected appliances. The panel action thus supports the rule that a single cord- and plug-connected appliance shall not exceed 80 percent of the branch-circuit current rating, unless the appliance is marked to inform the user of the necessity for providing an individual branch circuit for that appliance.

Code Panel 20 rejected a proposal that would have required garbage disposals to be operated only by a momentary contact switch. It was pointed out that the use of a switch of this type would leave only one hand of an operator of the disposal available for putting garbage into the disposal.

All panel actions are subject to formal written balloting. The panels will reconvene in December 2000 to consider comments received during the comment period before taking final panel action on the code proposals.